

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Sustainable Maryland Certified Green Team**  
**City Hall**  
**March 31, 2014**

**Attendees**

<u>Members</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Ben Bassett	_____	__X__
Steven Beavers	__X__	_____
P. J. Brennan	_____	__X__
Rebecca Hayes	_____	__X__
James Jalandoni	_____	__X__
Eric Maring	_____	__X__
Denise Mitchell	__X__	_____
Christine Nagle	_____	__X__
Chrissy Rey	_____	__X__
Terry Schum	_____	__X__
Loree Talley	__X__	_____
Patrick L. Wojahn	__X__	_____

**Also Present:**

William Gardiner, Assistant City Manager; Faheem Mahmooth, Recording Secretary.

**Call to Order**

Mr. Beavers called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM.

**Agenda Items**

**Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

Council Member Wojahn moved to approve the meeting minutes as edited by Mr. Beavers. Ms. Talley seconded the motion before it was unanimously approved by the Green Team.

**Bikeshare**

Mr. Beavers said that while the city was ready to sign the contract, unfortunately the bikeshare program has stalled, as the company that currently holds the patents on the Capital Bikeshare system, PBSC (Public Bike Share Company), recently declared bankruptcy. Alta, the operator of Capitol Bikeshare, informed the city that they are working on a plan to purchase PBSC. Mr. Beavers was hoping to find out soon about the outcome of Alta's bid to buy PBSC.

Mr. Beavers described the two types of bikeshare models. The first type relies on stations, where users would pick up and return the bikes. The second system uses a GPS tracker

on the bikes allowing users to drop off and pick up bikes from almost anywhere inside a designated grid. Baltimore City is looking into the feasibility of the second system.

### **Bike to Work Day**

Mr. Beavers informed the Green Team that the city had received a donation from Mom's Organic Market for the Bike to Work Day event. College Park Bicycles and Proteus Bicycles will also have technicians onsite giving free bike tune-ups. Mr. Beavers is hoping to include a DJ and free massages into the program. Council Member Wojahn suggested inquiring if Dave Milligan could serve as the DJ for this event.

### **MEA Update**

Mr. Beavers informed the Green Team that the MEA is funding energy efficiency improvements in city buildings, including replacing the garage bay doors in the trucks and fleet garage with a more insulated version and replacing the HVAC system at the Public Works Building. Usually, MEA funds projects that reduce electricity consumption, but since the truck and fleet garage use natural gas, Mr. Beavers needs to wait for approval from the MEA to proceed with the upgrades. The City will also do some projects and workshops centered around energy efficient practices for city employees.

### **Business Recycling Subcommittee**

Council Member Wojahn informed the Green Team that he had asked for a city work session to discuss if the city could pass an ordinance similar to the county ordinance on business recycling and update the code to include more than newspapers recycling. He hopes to also discuss developing policies for the grant the subcommittee is working on. Ms. Talley said that the subcommittee had also discussed changing the city policy to allow businesses to purchase recycling services only, as currently businesses can only purchase recycling services from the city if they bundle it with trash collection services.

### **Meeting Reports**

Mr. Gardiner and Mr. Beavers met with the university's Office of Sustainability. Mr. Gardiner informed the committee that the University of Maryland has been a member of the star rating system for campuses. There is a sister rating system for cities and towns, that Mr. Gardiner suggested the city might want to look into. He also said that he and Mr. Popkin are looking into ways to consolidate the city's efforts at improving sustainability and such a plan could be formulated under the stars program. Mr. Gardiner was also impressed with the university's outreach and marketing capabilities.

Mr. Beavers mentioned to the Green Team about the university's Partnership for Action Learning and Sustainability. This is a new program that aims to provide high quality and low cost assistance to local governments to tackle community challenges while providing real world experience for the university's students.

At the last Tree and Landscape Board meeting, the board proposed that the city make a bulk purchase of native trees in order to allow city residents to buy those trees which would allow them to take advantage of the rain check rebate program. By purchasing the trees through the city, residents could take advantage of the city's bulk purchasing capabilities.

Mr. Beavers informed the Green Team that the Community for a Better Environment is planning a walk along the trolley trail with Mr. Lincoln Smith of Forested, LLC on April 9, 2014 in order to assist in planning out the permaculture pilot project along the trail.

Mr. Beavers conveyed some of the ideas presented at the Good Neighbor program at the Sustainability Summit to the Green Team, which included using the university's communication and marketing ability, using the Hollywood Gateway Park project to demonstrate what the county's rain check rebate offers, collaborating with the university's Master Gardener program to help with the city's plans for a community garden, engaging in more partnering opportunities with the Community for a Better Environment, and utilizing greenway canopy mapping and other university resources to help residents determine what kind of trees can be placed on their property.

### **Outstanding Items on Action Plan**

Mr. Beavers informed the committee that Sustainable Maryland will be adding levels to their certification program. By default the City of College park will be a bronze level.

The Mayor will soon announce their new water conversation challenge, which as a water conversation outreach program can earn the city an additional 10 points. The city could also use its designation as a Tree City to earn points.

### **Community Garden**

During the Sustainability Summit an individual named Patrick Kennedy, from Christian Communities, proposed using one of their properties as a community garden. The property which is about two acres, is just outside the city limits.

Concerning the Edelman property discussed at the last meeting as a potential community garden location, Mr. Gardiner mentioned that Edelman would like to pursue using that property for an urban agriculture program for the community. Mr. Beaver suggested inviting him to a Green Team meeting where he could discuss his ideas. He also suggested inviting Mr. Kennedy as well other neighboring communities to discuss their community gardens. Accordingly, Mr. Beavers will set up these guests for the next Green Team Meeting.

### **Adjournment and next meeting**

Before adjourning the meeting, Mr. Beavers asked that if any Green Team member has any suggestions for content for the Green Team website or community library, they should email him.

Council Member Mitchell motioned to adjourn the meeting. Council Member Wojahn seconded the motion before it was unanimously accepted by the Green Team adjourning the meeting at 8:35 am. The next meeting is scheduled for May 19, 2014.

Minutes prepared by Faheem A. Mahmooth